

AIR POUCH

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731.022/11-2552

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Bogotá

462

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 25, 1952

DATE

REF :

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| | REC'D NOV 29 | OTHER | | |

SUBJECT: Colombia Recognizes Venezuelan Sovereignty over Los Monjes

The Colombian-Venezuelan dispute over ownership of Los Monjes Islands off the tip of the Guajira Peninsula, which has been blowing hot and cold for almost one hundred years, was settled on November 22 by exchange of notes between the Colombian Foreign Office and the Venezuelan Embassy here. Since Venezuela has maintained physical possession of the islands since 1871 or before, Colombia's gesture in recognizing sovereignty in this case is merely realistic. Colombian face was saved by the excuse that the whole dispute had begun over a typographical error in the New Granada Official Gazette of 1856 which mentioned Los Monjes instead of Los Mangles (Great and Little Corn Islands) as Colombian property. It was alleged that actually Colombia had never claimed Los Monjes at all.

For the Ambassador:

William D. Craig
William D. Craig
Second Secretary of Embassy

WDCraig/arb
REPORTER

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